GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:302
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2007
LITERACY TARGET
Chavda Shri Harisinh Pratapsinh;Yadav Shri Kailash Nath Singh

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is going to achieve the literacy targets in terms of percentage by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has identified the areas where achieving the literacy argets is getting affected due to regional, social and gender reasons;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the number of the illiterates is being assessed by the end of the year 2006-07;

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH)

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 302 FOR 20.3.2007 ASKED BY SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV AND SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA REGARDING LITERACY TARGET

(a) & (b): The goal of the National Literacy Mission (NLM) is to achieve 75% literacy by 2007. No assessment has yet been made on this achievement.

(c) & (d): As per 2001 Census, the overall increase in the literacy rate of the country was 12.63%, which is the highest decadal growth ever since independence. Female literacy rate increased at a much faster rate of 14.38% in comparison to male literacy rate, which was 11.13%. While all the States and Union Territories without exception have shown increase in literacy rate during 1991-2001, the pace of progress of some of the State and also some areas/districts within the States is still not satisfactory. The focus of the NLM is on women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, minorities and other backward sections of the society. Priority has been given to critical areas like low female literacy and the residual illiterates in the country.

(e): No, Sir.

(f): Does not arise.

(g): As according to Census 2001, major portion of the illiterates are concentrated in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Orissa, special literacy programmes focused on illiterate women in 35 low female literacy districts in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa have been taken up to cover 63.80 lakh women. Further, Projects for Residual Illiteracy have also been sanctioned in 12 States covering 113 districts and 163.79 lakh residual illiterates. In addition, 150 districts of the country, which have the lowest literacy rates, have been identified for a special literacy drive.